



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Human Capital as Key for Economic Growth

1 November 2023, 10.00-15:00

The Hall of the Baltic Way, Saeima, Jēkaba iela 6/8, Riga

ORGANISERS: The Saeima Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Committee, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia

GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE: to discuss how to promote investments in Latvia's human capital in order to accelerate the growth of the national economy and to learn from other countries' best practices in the field. Experts from a wide range of sectors will discuss how various policy areas, including economy, employment, education, health, and welfare contribute to the development of human capital. In the current demographic and geopolitical environment, promotion of strategic investments in human capital is needed to ensure Latvia's economic security and prosperity.

Agenda

9:30 Registration, coffee

10:00 Opening remarks

***Antoņina Nenaševa**, Deputy Speaker of the Saeima*

***Skaidrīte Ābrama**, Chair of the Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Committee of the Saeima*

***John Tully**, AmCham President, CEO of MikroTik*

***Pauls Miklaševičs**, AmCham Vice President and Chief Investment Officer at BluOr Bank*

10:20 Keynote presentation

Human capital as the key to economic development

***Oļegs Krasnopjorovs**, Chief Economist at the Bank of Latvia*

Panel I: How does investment in health contribute to economic development?

Investments in health contribute to the well-being of each individual as well as to the productivity of the economy in general. The impact of demographic change, including the rapid ageing of society and low healthy life expectancy presents new challenges for both the public and private sectors. Health is a prerequisite for increased life span, optimal quality of life, career development, better work performance, acquisition of new skills and knowledge, and active participation in the labour market.

*Moderator: **Pauls Miklaševičs**, AmCham Vice President and Chief Investment Officer at BluOr Bank*

10:40 Opening remarks

***Artjoms Uršulskis**, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Health*

10:50 Keynote presentation

Implementation of sustainable investment practices in Slovenian healthcare system

***Dr Janez Poklukar**, Member of the Prime Minister's Strategic Council for Healthcare, Slovenia*



11:15 Panel discussion

Artjoms Uršulis, *Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Health*

Alise Krūmiņa, *AmCham Healthcare WG Lead and Healthcare System Partner at Roche*

Jaanus Pikani, *Chairman, ScanBalt, Founder of Tartu Biotechnology Park*

Karina Ploka, *Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Finance*

Dr Janez Poklukar, *Member of the Prime Minister's Strategic Council for Healthcare, Slovenia*

Comments and questions

12:15 Coffee break

Panel II: How does employment affect economic development?

The development and growth of the national economy is closely related to the availability of human resources. By expanding the knowledge and skills of citizens we can accelerate growth and develop innovations. What steps could be taken to reach a holistic view on employment policy that is based not only on the present needs, but also on the country's future development? Should we become more open to foreign talent?

*Moderator: **Ieva Rācenāja**, AmCham Vice President and Director of Riga Graduate School of Law*

12:45 Opening remarks

Viktors Valainis, *Minister of Economics*

Ieva Rācenāja, *AmCham Vice President and Director of Riga Graduate School of Law*

13:00 Keynote presentation

Migration of workforce—risks and opportunities

Ilona Butāne, *Partner, Tax Advisory Services, EY Latvia*

Sergejs Batjuškovs, *Senior Manager, Tax Advisory Services, EY Latvia*

13:20 Panel discussion

Pārsla Baško, *Chief People Officer, Printful*

Ilona Butāne, *Partner, Tax Advisory Services, EY Latvia*

Vladimir Janevski, *Managing Director of McDonald's Baltics*

Viktors Valainis, *Minister of Economics*

Zane Vārpiņa, *Associate Professor at SSE Riga, demography researcher*

Comments and questions

14:20 Summary

Pauls Miklaševičs, *AmCham Vice President, Chief Investment Officer at BluOr Bank*

14:25 Informal networking and light lunch

